

STATINTL

Voice Of The People

STATINTL

We Can't Blame Fourth Floor Only

CPYRGHT

Editor The Herald: Reference is made to the condensation of the book entitled "The Fourth Floor," written by Earl T. Smith, U.S. Ambassador to Cuba during the time Castro rose to power.

As best I can make out, Mr. Smith's general thesis —outlined on other occasions — seems to be that while ambassador to Cuba he insisted to the department that Castro was a Communist; that our policy toward Castro was determined by lower

departmental officials on the fourth floor; and that these officials (notably Rubottom and Wieland) were in a position to prevent numerous embassy and CIA reports reporting Castro's communism from going above the fourth floor to Secretary John Foster Dulles.

Mr. Smith is to be congratulated, of course, on his recognition that Castro was a Communist and on his patriotic efforts to influence departmental policy against him.

He, however, seemingly lays virtually all the blame for the early limited pro-Castroism of the Eisenhower administration on Rubottom and Wieland; and he also seems to think that these luckless officials prevented Secretary Dulles, et al, from seeing the intelligence reports from Cuba.

Unfortunately, Mr. Smith's strictures appear to be more of a left-handed reflection on President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles than on the fourth floor officials. I for one would hate to believe that, at a crucial time in our history when the Cuban problem was making headlines in our daily press, Secretary Dulles and-or the President did not take the initiative to read briefs on the more important intelligence reports from Cuba; and that they left major Cuban policy decisions to

thing about the internal workings of the Department of State knows that, even had they tried, Rubottom and Wieland could not have kept the intelligence reports about Castro from reaching the hands of Secretary Dulles and-or President Eisenhower. More especially when Allen Dulles, brother of the secretary, was head of CIA and must himself have been well-informed about Castro's ideological inclinations.

No, let's be realistic without being unduly critical. A limited amount of pro-Castroism seems to have been the official policy of the Eisenhower administration during the early days of Castro's rise to power. And I credit President Eisenhower and the late Secretary Dulles with being too strong in character to want to pass the buck on this one to the fourth floor.

Rubottom and Wieland. Moreover, anyone who knows any

✓ LOUIS CLINTON NOLAN
Fort Lauderdale

CPYRGHT